



Beatrice's HOPE

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOPE MULTIPURPOSE, INC., FOUNDED BY BEATRICE GARUBANDA

VOL. 27, SPRING 2018

The changing face of the Blue House girls

Although the first Blue House girls were orphaned by HIV/AIDS or other diseases, today's girls would more often be considered "vulnerable," because one or both parents are disabled, dying, or otherwise unable to provide food, housing, or basic care.

Sometimes a girl faces extreme poverty, neglect or physical or psychological abuse. The director or social worker will do a home assessment to determine if the child meets criteria



A girl sat with the director during her home assessment.

to live at the Blue House. Girls are kept safe, but also stay connected to their families when possible. A few times circumstances have improved and a girl can be resettled with her relative(s). 🏠



The newest girls at the Blue House already have chores, like sorting ground nuts (peanuts) grown on the property.

Congratulations to Lillian!



Lillian A., in the black dress, celebrates with her Blue House sisters and housemother Ziporah (right), after hearing that she earned top score in the Kiruhura district for the national examination board. Lillian will be doing Advanced Level studies at Maryhill girls' boarding school in Mbarara, studying physics, chemistry, biology and math. She wants to become a doctor.



These secondary school girls model new dresses made by U of M students. See inside for more on the partnership between U of M students and the Blue House.

The University of Minnesota and Blue House partnership

In 2012, Sherri Gahring, U of M apparel design professor, offered to have her beginning sewing students make sundresses for the Blue House girls, as a one-day service-learning project. That small beginning grew when Lucy Dunne expanded the effort into a semester-long project for upper-level students that had students developing and producing shoulder bags, play pants and rain ponchos for the girls.

Lucy Dunne's third year apparel design class focuses on the mass-manufacturing process for clothing and sewn products.

For the last six years students have designed and manufactured outfits and accessories for the Blue House each fall semester. Her students see a presentation about the girls, ask questions about their life in Uganda, and then design and mass produce functional clothing specifically for their needs. The students produce between 100 and 200 garments each year that are carried to the Blue House by a volunteer. For most of these girls, their U of M outfits were the first new clothes they'd ever had. The University students love having such special customers! 🏠



2012 - Lucy Dunne and Sherri Gahring show the first dresses to Minnesota board president, Carol Roeller, and board accountant Jerry Roeller.



2012 - The University students attached photos of themselves making the sundresses. The Blue House girls sent back their own pictures holding the photos of the dresses they were wearing.



2012 - At the first sign of a sprinkle, Immaculate put on her poncho. The girls walk to school even during rainy season, and they really appreciate the coverage, including over book bags.



2013 - Tracy looks like she wore her sundress every day for a year, and washed it by hand in the pond water. These clothes are loved to death!



2013 - Fleece jackets made for walking to school on chilly (70°F) mornings.



2014 - Play clothes were welcomed by girls who wear uniforms to school.



2015 - Charlotte, left, and Angella, right, in their play dresses. Sylvia, center, might be wearing a Goodwill-type import.



2016 - Lovely young ladies loving their blue print cotton dresses.



2016 - Better than shopping: the younger girls got first pick of tops, crops, and dirndl skirts.



BLUE HOUSE UGANDA

Blue House Uganda is a 501(c)(3) charity, sponsored by Hope Multipurpose, Inc., based in St. Paul MN, for orphans and vulnerable children in Kazo, Uganda.

Donations are tax deductible.

See: www.Blue-House.org/donate

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New designs from the 2017 U of M clothing class



Modeling a colorful wrap top and gathered skirt. Other students inspected and sorted more clothing, soon to be sent to Uganda.



Across the globe, from a land of snow-covered trees, to a lucky girl who lives on the equator.



Monic and Elizabeth, "looking smart," as they say in Uganda.



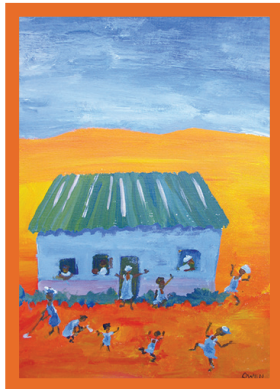
The younger girls look tickled to show off their new fashionable dresses.



Secondary students in flannel hooded jackets— Ruth, Annitah, Lillian N. and Lillian T.

See more pictures at
www.Blue-House.org/U-of-M-clothing

The Margaret B. Krohn Sewing School awards certificates to new graduates



DONATE

online or use the enclosed envelope.

Please help the Blue House accomplish its mission:

Creating a childhood and opportunity for orphans in rural Uganda.

www.Blue-House.org/donate



Musiime (right) instructs students of the sewing school.

Certificates are ready to distribute to new graduates of the Margaret B. Krohn Vocational Training Centre at the Blue House. 🏠



A Reflection on Beatrice Garubanda

By *Linda Lopez*

This article is reprinted from Tidings, the newsletter of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, the home church of Beatrice Garubanda (1955-2005), founder of the Blue House in Uganda.

When I ask people now what they remember about Beatrice, many tell me that they visited St. Matthew's and stayed because of the welcome given by Beatrice. One person told me she just felt wrapped in loving kindness in her encounters with Beatrice. Powerful. A gentle soul. Accepting. Prayerful. A friend to all. Genuine. Those are common themes.

I also asked some people who were children when she was alive what they remembered. Here are some comments:

"I mostly saw her as the mother of kids my sibling's age. But she was incredibly poised and always carried herself with grace—and she laughed like she meant it."

Another:

"I remember her smile, her laugh, her sassy nature!" (Beatrice sassy?) "Well, you know, she hugged everyone, but she also made sure we tutoring kids stayed in line."

I remember her as a mom, and we shared worries about our children. Beatrice was also concerned about other children. She saw a need for tutoring among her children's

friends and so started a program at church. I was one of her many tutors. However, sometimes a student would need help in an area that none of us regular tutors were good at. She did not hesitate to call people up and simply state that one of the tutoring kids needed help in their area of expertise. She expected them to come and they did. It was hard to say no to Beatrice.

I have a strong memory of the time after Beatrice returned from Uganda and saw the overwhelming number of homeless children whose parents had died from HIV/AIDS. Relatives had already taken in so many. Beatrice sat down and explained to Rosa Uy and me how she would start an orphanage for girls and boys in Uganda.

She drew it all out for us on a sheet of paper. Later, she went on to find help to make it happen, and that is how the Blue House was born.

Each year at the Blue House Boutique, I look out at the number of people involved in organizing, volunteering, and shopping and think, "Beatrice would love this!"

We call Beatrice one of the saints of our congregation. She was very special, but not perfect. But then, few of those called by God to do special things are perfect. 🏠



Beatrice Garubanda, as remembered in a painting at St. Matthew's

2017: A successful Blue House Boutique

The Blue House Boutique had another successful year.

One shopper wrote, "Our presents are wrapped and shipped to family in Texas and Illinois, and the ones I'm most happy to give were purchased at St. Matthew's craft fair for the Blue House...never have I been to a church craft fair with such quality of handmade items and high purpose. I was so impressed. The 2018 date is already marked on my calendar."

Mark your calendar:
December 1-2, 2018. 🏠

www.Blue-House.org



St. Matthew's held a craft event so anyone could make easy and inexpensive gifts to sell at the Boutique, for children to buy for their families.



Christmas festivities and a visitor from the U.S.



Ishaka Mawanda (with notebook), president of the US Board of Directors, has a walking board meeting with the Ugandan Board and staff as they tour the Blue House grounds.

Christmas is celebrated with old friends and new, with emphasis on church, food, and tradition. Several Blue House alum returned for the festivities to reconnect with their sisters and to meet new girls. Ishaka Mawanda, president of the Board of Directors in Minnesota, took a day from visiting his own family in Uganda to meet the Blue House girls, staff, board, and alumnae. 🏠



Patience, right, a Blue House alum, helps serve Christmas dinner to other current and past residents.



The girls worked with Rosemary, at right, a recent grad of the Krohn Sewing School, to make their fabulous Bitenge dresses for Christmas.



Mothers' Tea for the Blue House

Saturday, May 5, 2018 ~ 10 am

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
2323 W. Como Ave., St. Paul, MN

Moms, dads, kids, and grandparents are welcome.

Enjoy a home-made brunch buffet.



Savor a variety of selected teas (and coffee).

Listen to live harp music of Siobhan O'Malley



Shop at the African Market

Learn more of the Minnesota-Blue House clothing partnership

Relax, chat, and indulge. It's for a good cause!

See www.Blue-House.org/mothers-tea for ticket info or RSVP: 651-644-3927

Lost Forester and Pine Valley Races Labor Day, Sept. 3 • Cloquet, MN



Registration is open
www.Blue-House.org/lost-forester

Wearing flannel is an advantage.



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The three newest girls dance with delight in their new dresses from the University of Minnesota (pp 2-3).

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